

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-22, and 24-26 are currently pending in the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the Claims as follows. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-22, and 24-26, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,745,253 (Struble).

The present application, as defined by the Claims, is drawn to an apparatus and method for controlling ad-hoc network connections of a wireless communication device with peripheral devices while lowering power consumption and enhancing a user's convenience. Unlike prior art devices, which constantly scan for available peripherals (and waste valuable system resources doing so), the inventive method, as defined by the Claims of the present application, determines when it is likely that the user will want to use a peripheral device for a specific function upon the occurrence of an event and searches for peripheral devices based on the determination. For example, when a mobile telephone receives an SMS message, the user may want to print it, so the mobile phone looks for, and connects to, a printer in anticipation of the user's possible need to print. Furthermore, according to the present application, as defined by the Claims, a digital camera will find and connect to a printer upon taking a picture, in anticipation of the user wanting to print the picture. Thus, according to the present application, power

consumption and the time necessary to initiate a network connection is reduced, thus enhancing a user's operating convenience.

Struble discloses a system and method with which a user can locate and determine the functional capabilities of the peripheral devices so that the person can determine whether or not to use the peripheral devices (e.g., see, Column 1, Lines 43-46). This is similar to the method disclosed in the background section of the disclosure of the present invention (e.g., see, the Paragraph beginning at Line 21, of Page 2 of the present application).

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Claim 1 has been amended and is further distinguished.

With reference to step 310 of FIG. 3A, Struble discloses a determination step which determines whether "SUITABLE DEVICE(S) ARE IN RANGE?" Moreover with respect to the corresponding text of Struble, i.e., Column 4, Lines 34-54, Struble teaches "decision element 310," Struble does not provide any other information as to operative steps performed in Step 310.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 includes the limitation of wherein the control

means determines whether the peripheral device is likely to be utilized, sets a flag when it is determined, as a result of a search, that the peripheral device is available, and thereafter awaits a user's selection of a command corresponding to the set flag, which is neither taught nor suggested by Struble.

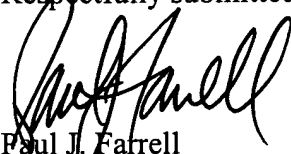
Accordingly, as Struble does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of independent Claim 6, this Claim includes similar recitations as those contained in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 6 is patentably distinct at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to Claim 1. Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 6 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 3-5, 8-22 and 24-26, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 3-5, 8-22 and 24-26 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 3-6, 8-22 and 24-26, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over the printed name.

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